

## Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Local Place Plan Registration SUBMISSION STATEMENT

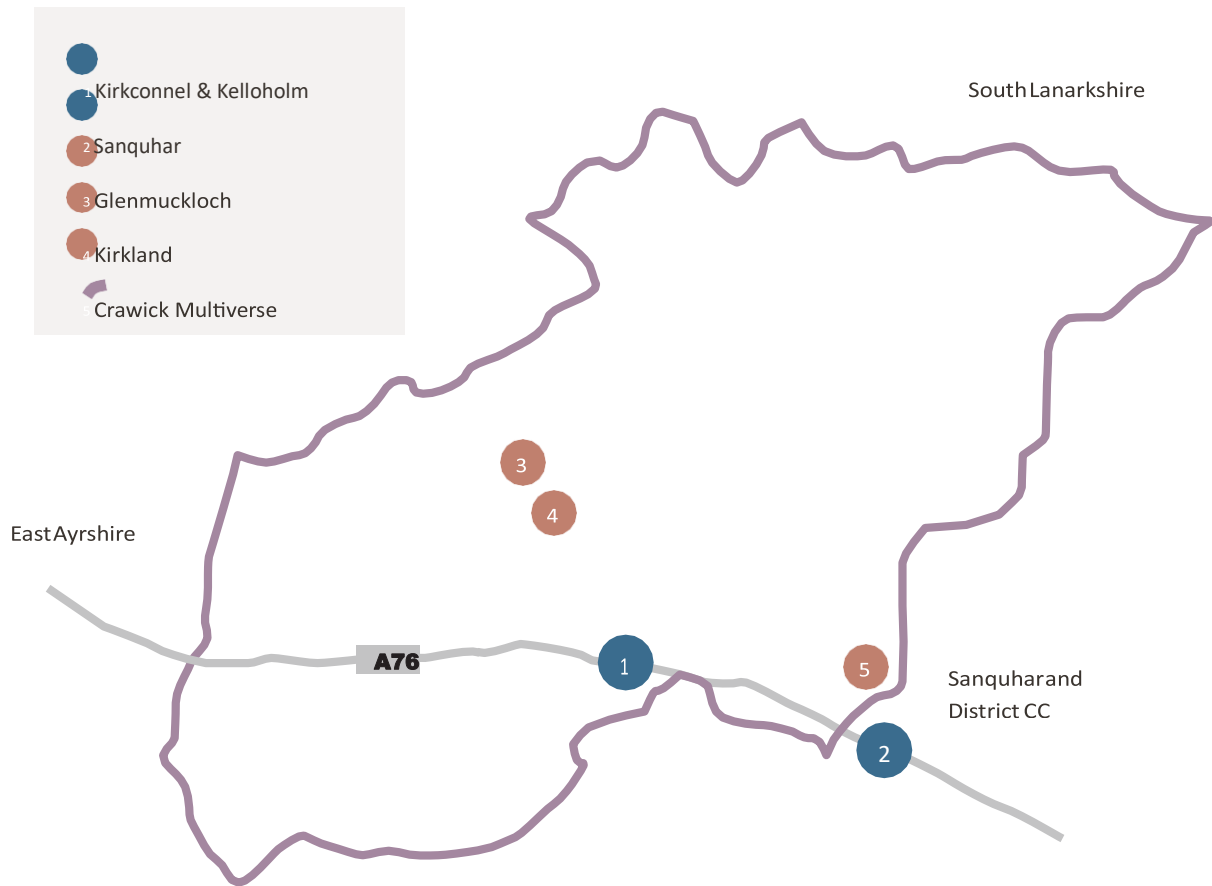
### INTRODUCTION

Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust is leading a partnership to deliver a Place Plan for Kirkconnel Parish. Our Place Plan represents the whole community. It is designed to guide the town's transformation for the next decade, from 2023-2033. The Place Plan initiative and the energetic engagement from the local community and community partners was catalysed by an invitation to apply for funding as part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal.

The players in developing the Place Plan were:

- The local community
- A Steering Group of locals supported by Dumfries & Galloway Council and South of Scotland Enterprise.
- A Town Team sounding board of community representatives who helped guide the process with representatives from the following community organisations:

Crawick Multiverse Trust
Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust
Kello Rovers Crawick & Nithsdale Wheelers Cycle Club
Parent Council
Brown Brothers DYW
Coalfields Trust Upper Nithsdale Community Trust
Kirkconnel Heritage Society
Kirkconnel Miners Memorial Centre
Buckleuch Estates
Glenmuckloch pump storage hydro Buckleuch Group
Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Community Council
Life Long Learning



## AIM

This Statement aims to support our *Expression of Interest* to register our Place Plan for Kirkconnel Parish. The Place Plan and this statement has been prepared in accordance with:

- Government legislation: Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government's Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans (LPP)
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements.

## LPP CONFIRMATION

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this Statement confirms:

### Governance

The submission is made by Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust on behalf of the Town Team and local community. The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered number SC045680. It is governed by a Board of Trustees. The submission is signed off by the Chair.

A written copy of the Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust's constitution is included with the submission of this statement to demonstrate that it is a community-controlled body as defined by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

## Strategic Context

Kirkconnel Parish Place Plan pays due regard to the National Planning Framework, Local Development Plan and Locality Plan. In preparing the Place Plan the following plans were taken into account:

### National

- National Performance Framework
- National Planning Framework 4
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- Shaping Scotland's Economy: Inward Investment Plan
- Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy & Action Plan
- National Strategy for Economic Transformation
- UK Government Levelling Up
- Scotland: A Trading Nation
- Infrastructure Investment Plan
- National Transport Strategy
- Scotland's Vision for Trade
- Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan
- Fair Work Nation
- Net Zero & Environmental Strategies
- Community Wealth Building
- Culture Strategy for Scotland
- National Town Centre Action Plan 2
- Town Centre First Principle
- Digital Strategy

Registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC046306

[www.stranraerdevelopmenttrust.co.uk](http://www.stranraerdevelopmenttrust.co.uk)

Place Plan: [www.creatingstranraer.co.uk](http://www.creatingstranraer.co.uk)

### Regional

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

SoSE Regional Economic Strategy

Regional Skills & Investment Plan

Dumfries & Galloway 5 Year Plan 2023-28 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

2017-2027 Poverty & Inequalities Strategy

Regional Economic Partnership Vision 2031

### Local

Local Development Plan 2, 2019

Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2027 Strategic Outline Programme:

Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Action Plan 2021

## Engagement

Engagement drove and informed the Plan. To ensure that the widest range of voices were heard, we held conversations, meetings, focus groups and workshops with local people representing a broad demographic and met with key local partners and local, regional and national organisations and agencies:

- Community partners: Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust, Kirkconnel Parish Heritage Society, Kello Rovers, Upper Nithsdale Community Trust, Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Community Council.

- Strategic partners: South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries & Galloway Council, Third Sector Interface.
- Influencers: MSP, Councillors
- Young people: Primary, secondary, young people, youth/community development, youth councillors.
- Diversity: NHS, Action for Children
- Employers: Professionals/experts in employability/skills; Buccleuch Estates, Brown Brothers
- Culture: Upper Nithsdale Tourism Partnership, Crawick Multiverse Trust
- Environment: SEPA, Dumfries & Galloway Council Environment Team, Southern Upland Way
- Learning: Sanquhar Academy, D&G College, Kelloholm Primary School
- Housing: Loreburn Housing Association, Wheatley Group, South of Scotland Community Housing.
- Place: Newcastleton Development Trust
- Visitor economy: South of Scotland Destination Alliance, Visit Scotland.

The engagement process included two community consultation ‘drop-in’ events in Kirkconnel on Tuesday 20th September 2022 held in the Miners Memorial Hall and ‘The Cabin’; Focus Group meetings held with key stakeholders; and a community survey circulated both online and in hard copy bringing in over 110 responses; and in addition, the Council’s Youth Services team hosted two sessions with young people to ensure engagement with as wide an age range of people as possible.

### Consultation

In line with Planning requirements, we carried out a month-long consultation in November 2023 on our Draft Place Plan.

Ward Officers and Elected Members were notified:

- Sanquhar Community Council
- Duneaton Community Council
- New Cumnock Community Council
- Auchinleck Community Council

### Development Proposals

Through engagement we first identified many issues and ideas for Kirkconnel & Kelloholm, then these were narrowed to the following five themes for change:

- A Sustainable Town
- A Vibrant Town
- A Welcoming Town
- A Wellbeing Town
- A Centred Town

Across the five themes, ten priorities for the community were identified:

Realise the training and employment potential of green energy
Construct and develop a new skills, learning and innovation centre
Develop small workshop and industrial units
Public realm regeneration programme
Develop an Upper Nithsdale visitor strategy
Develop a new delivery model for community-led health, wellbeing and recreation services
Develop a sustainable, local food growing system
Develop a community-led housing strategy
Develop new supported accommodation at Niviston Road, Kelloholm

We are presently engaging with the community and partners on matters of delivery such as the prioritisation of projects. The outcome of this may define how the community wishes Kirkconnel & Kelloholm to be reflected in the Local Development Plan.

### Impact on the Local Development Plan

We would hope that these and other concepts, constructs and developments in the Place Plan could be taken into consideration in the development of LDP3.

Current planning objectives aim to consolidate and enhance Kirkconnel and Kelloholm's role as a district centre. The LDP aims to do this by identifying opportunities for expanding the settlements by allocating land for new housing, business and industry.

The Place Plan synergises with these aims of the LDP through its strategic objectives of creating a sustainable, vibrant, welcoming, wellbeing and centred town. Additionally, the priorities identified in the Place Plan are considered consistent with the aims of the LDP.

Where possible the Place Plan has identified the sites that the priorities relate to. These can be seen on the map (page 45). They are considered to be consistent with the policies and proposals map of the current LDP. In drafting the next LDP, we would ask that the Council be mindful of these sites and ensure that any land designations made will not impede the progression of these projects.

A number of the priorities are at an early stage with the need for further work, such as feasibility studies or site assessment. These may result in the need for land to be identified in the next LDP. If these priorities progress prior to the publication of the LDP Proposed Plan, we would ask that the Council make changes that will allow these to be delivered.

### An aspirational Place Plan

The community's aspirations are presented in the Place Plan at a high level. Within the Place Plan, we present a fresh vision for the town for the next decade. We ask the Council as the Planning Authority to take these ideas into consideration for future development of Kirkconnel & Kelloholm as part of the Local Development Plan.

The Place Plan and its Appendices lay out in high level detail the issues, ideas and solutions of local people. These ideas shaped the Plan and support our desire for change that might affect the Local Development Plan.

We intend to develop ideas for the use of land in more detail through feasibility studies and the Borderlands Town Investment Plan process. This work will be done in consultation with the local authority, planning authorities and appropriate government agencies.

### Conclusion

The Place Plan has engaged the local community, identifying Five Themes and across these ten priorities for change that the community aspire to.

The Place Planning process has already been a catalyst for change. There is an appetite for change within the community and fresh relationships have already sprung up.

The Place Plan will be used to apply for £3 million from Borderlands and we will use this to lever other funds. We aim to use the Place Plan to maximise the benefit of a significant injection of community benefit funds from a number of wind farms in the Upper Nithsdale area.

### Contacts

Matt Lammie - Chair

Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust

Email: [mblammie@outlook.com](mailto:mblammie@outlook.com)

Rose Murdoch Project Manager, Kirkconnel & Kelloholm Development Trust

Email: [rose@kkdt.org.uk](mailto:rose@kkdt.org.uk)